

From: JMS <john@sinrud.com>
Sent: Friday, February 18, 2011 12:22 PM
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: FW: HB 589 Definition of Retaliation

John Sinrud
Phone: 406-539-9654

From: Jerry Hackett [mailto:cajiggs@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2011 3:29 PM
To: JMS
Subject: HB 589 Definition of Retaliation

Chairman Vance and Committee members

My name is Jerry Hackett, I'm from Harlowton.

I'm asking for your support for HB 589. I'm speaking for myself as a Montana landlord, and I'm speaking to represent the 1150 members of the Montana Landlords Association in my role as VP of the Lewistown /Harlowton Chapter and as a voting member of the statewide MLA Government Affairs Committee.

Very few landlords are ever charged with retaliation. But when it happens, in some situations landlords are being administratively placed in an unfair and impossible situation. This bill would put the landlord back on an equal footing with the tenant in resolution of additional complaints filed while the discrimination charge is pending. It **does not remove nor restrict any tenants rights.**

With the current situation, if a tenant makes a charge of retaliation during the investigation/resolution of the discrimination complaint, the landlord is administratively presumed guilty of the retaliation charge by the housing board and must prove innocence, even if the original discrimination charge is resolved in favor of the landlord. Of course, it is essentially impossible to prove you did not do something, and no Montana citizen should be forced to do so to avoid steep fines/penalties by a government agency.

We just want to be treated fairly. Your support for HB 589 will help that happen. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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